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GENERAL

1. Comment on Asian attendance at Moscow Economic Conference:

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The interest which the Moscow Economic Conference holds for underdeveloped countries is revealed

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An influential Iranian delegation, which includes the son-in-law of Mossadeq and an Iranian of avowedly pro-American sympathies, reportedly will attend the conference with the government's "blessing."

A Burmese delegation composed of both extreme rightists and fellow-travelers is on its way to Moscow. Burma's chief rice trader is a member. During a stop-over in Rangoon a spokesman referred to the "foreign trade" mission of the delegation.

The Indonesian Government rejected a suggestion to subsidize seven delegates to the conference, and the Indonesian participants will proceed to Moscow on an individual basis but with governmental encouragement.

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5. Egyptian Cabinet will not contest elections unless agreement with Britain is reached:

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[Redacted]

Prime Minister Hilali's cabinet has decided that, in the absence of an agreement with Britain, it will not contest the 18 May Egyptian elections and will resign immediately thereafter. The

Egyptian Foreign Minister has stated, however, that in the event of an agreement, Hilali will stay in the elections and attempt to secure popular approval.

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Comment: There have been conflicting reports on the intentions of the Hilali cabinet in the event the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations should fail. The weight of evidence suggests that the government will resign in this eventuality and let the Wafd return to power, although British officials believe that this apparent readiness to resign may be a form of blackmail.

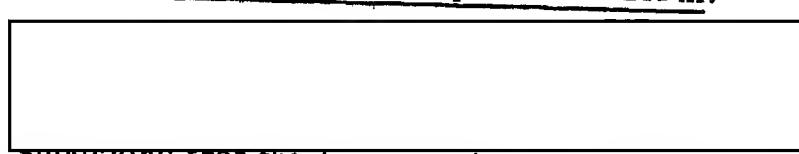
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#### EASTERN EUROPE

7. Thirty percent of Yugoslav combat officers reported pro-Cominform:

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superiors that thirty percent of the officers in combat units are pro-Cominform. The general reportedly recommended that increased attention be given to political and ideological orientation lectures for officers.

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Comment: Ten or twelve army colonels were arrested in Macedonia last November for allegedly holding anti-Western views. Moreover, a generally reliable source reported in February that all Yugoslav army officers known to have Cominform sympathies were being arrested and tried in complete secrecy.

Although pro-Soviet sentiment or opportunism in the army may be greater than generally estimated, informed Western observers believe that the Yugoslav Army on the whole is loyal to the Tito regime.

#### WESTERN EUROPE

8. Italian Foreign Office fears effects of the Trieste situation on the government's stability:

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A high official of the Italian Foreign Office believes that the Trieste situation could have "most grave consequences" for the West as a whole and the Italian Government in particular.

He states that unless the British make "some gesture" in Trieste, the De Gasperi government may have to make further anti-British moves in order to avoid collapse.

Both the American and British Embassies in Rome are convinced that Premier de Gasperi is facing a real parliamentary crisis which will force him to take a strong stand in order to save his government.

Comment: The Italians are undoubtedly using the threat of a cabinet crisis to wring concessions from the Western powers on Trieste. There is little likelihood of the government falling on the Trieste issue, although its foreign policy may be subjected to a heated parliamentary debate.

On the other hand, the rising tide of nationalism throughout the country may threaten Italy's close collaboration with the West in NATO, as well as in the Schuman Plan, which has not yet been approved by the lower house.

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